



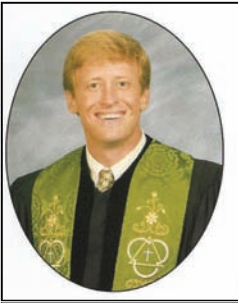
# First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

November 2008

Rev. Dr. L. Holton Siegling, Jr. - Senior Pastor  
Rev. Bert Swearingen - Parish Associate

## Reflections on the Stewardship Season



*by the Reverend Dr.  
L. Holton Siegling, Jr.*

Recently I reflected upon the fact that, when Moses was praying before battle, God interrupted him by saying, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward" (Exodus 14:15). I believe that God was emphasizing to Moses that prayer is indeed important, but so is action. Likewise, I feel that we should

not only pray for our nation during this election season but also prayerfully consider who the candidates are and what they stand for; then we must go to the polls and perform the duty of voting as entrusted to us as citizens.

I, along with many of you, have watched the election coverage closely. One issue which has been brought up on more than one occasion is that of sacrifice. Such a theme is probably not new for any of us because we know that sacrificial living is part of what it means to be a Christian. But do we really live sacrificially?

I once offered a well-known message to children using an apple as my visual aid. As I mentioned each new thing in our lives that takes from us something of who we are, I took a bite from the apple. By the end of the message all that was left was an apple core. The message remains: God does not want what is left over from our lives; God wants our first fruits. Throughout stewardship season each of us will be challenged to consider the following question: What percentage of my income is God calling me to

give to the work of his church?

It might seem that now is a "less than ideal" time to talk about giving, especially in light of these difficult days in our nation's economy. If we were a people who walked by sight instead of by faith, these days would easily qualify as ones which demand that we dare not broach the subject of giving, much less giving sacrificially. The more I think about it, however, the more I realize that this may be an ideal time for us to think about what it means to put our trust wholly in God and recognize that money sometimes has an unhealthy power and priority in our lives. As our resident theologian the Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel inquired last Sunday, "Where is your security?"

Suzanne Keim, a Presbyterian from South Carolina, recently stated, "No matter what the season or the economic or political atmosphere, Jesus is always calling us to 'be rich toward God.'" Charles Meier, a Presbyterian from North Carolina, offers some helpful words on this subject as well: "I make no apologies for asking for your financial support for this church. The church has always put us first, before anything else. It took us in as babies before it knew who we were, what we might be, or what we might have. It called us 'children of God' and received us into its arms; it walked beside us in good times and in bad times; it prays for us when we go astray and then welcomes us back as a loving mother; it is with us in sickness, sorrow, and death."

Though I would not presume to tell anyone what their gift to the church should

Pastor's article, continued from front

be, my family continues to be guided by the Biblical principle of tithing, a practice which entails giving 10% of one's income to the work of God. I'll be the first to admit that, with two mortgages and children's activities on the rise, such a commitment is difficult to make and even harder to keep! Perhaps tithing of your means is a goal toward which you and your family may aspire. As Larry Williams pointed out last Sunday, taking a faithful "step" in giving can serve as a tangible way of placing our trust in God and God's provision, and it also allows us to better prioritize our life and our living. Please bear in mind that a pledge, or what we call an "estimate of giving", is not a binding contract; it is simply an expression of our intention to give a particular amount to the church. In the event that your financial situation changes - for better or for worse - we understand that your financial gifts to the church may also need to change.

Consecration Sunday's emphasis is rightly placed on God's desire for our spiritual growth through our stewardship season and not on needs of the church. It is, nevertheless, worthwhile for you to know how our church uses your financial contributions as together we strive to be about the very mission of God. Basically, there are four major financial areas: Personnel, Property, Church Programming, and Mission.

Continuing to take significant steps in the area of personnel, we recently addressed the spiritual needs of our students by calling Wade Preston to serve as our Director for Youth and Their Families. A special "thank you" is extended to those who served on the search committee: Doris Holloway (Chair), Ben Cazell, Doris Davis, Grace Kunzelmann, DeAnn Johnson, and Todd Lockhart. We also extend our appreciation to Roger Martin and Bill Tucker for their discernment in this matter.

Another area of great concern is that of pastoral care. This aspect of ministry has and will continue to be near to my heart and, I feel, must receive additional attention during the months ahead. The Rev. Bert Sweringen continues to be a tremendous

help as our Parish Associate, albeit on a part-time and temporary basis. He will begin to expand his activities with the help of those of you who are interested in being a part of a ministry of visitation. Fully addressing pastoral care needs will be further realized, however, only when we once again call a full time Pastor, in this case an Associate, who is dedicated to the work of supporting our membership in times of need, enriching the spiritual lives of all of God's children, and equipping our saints to do the work of God.

Living into this vision will likely push our personnel budget even higher next year. Please do keep the Associate Pastor Search Committee in your prayers as they continue to seek who God is calling to serve with us.

One of the blessings of our church family concerns our physical property where we gather to worship and grow in our knowledge and love of God each Sunday. But did you know that throughout the week the facility is used to benefit groups from our church and the surrounding area? With such frequent usage naturally comes additional wear and tear; therefore, our buildings need to be maintained.

You may be interested to know that we are presently considering how to address some fairly extensive roof repairs that may be needed at the manse, another one of our buildings. This expenditure, too, will require some creative thinking as we plan for the years to come; nevertheless, we are ever mindful of demonstrating how a physically old church can be a spiritually vibrant church.

Last year our church programming, which encompasses a range of ministries, included but was not limited to the following: Christian Education, Youth Ministry, Member Care, and Worship. You should know that this year's capital expenditures have prepared the Anchor well as the future site for our Contemporary Worship service. Indeed, worship is at the very heart of our faith, for it is in the midst of other believers that we receive encouragement and strength for the daily living of

our lives. Through our fellowship around the table and at places such as Camp Montgomery, we grow together as God's family; and through Bible study and reflection we are further empowered to grow as faithful disciples so that we may reach out to others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our various mission causes illustrate some of the concrete ways that we reach out to the world. The benevolent causes supported through our church family include such local organizations and ministries as the *Barnabas Center*, *Micah's Place*, and the *Council on Aging*; international mission partnerships such as Kim Brown, who is presently serving in Thailand, and the Delille's, who are serving in Brazil; and also the work of the larger church. Wasn't it amazing to hear from Fahed about the extraordinary mission work of the PC(USA) which is taking place all over the world. What a joy it is to bear witness to the mission mindedness of our local church family as members stuff for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes full of gifts for needy children around the world, minister as chaplains in agencies and hospitals in our area, and serve food to the homeless members of our community through the Interfaith Dinner Network.

There are nuances to any church budget, and I am enjoying learning how we have been and continue to be good stewards of that which God has entrusted to us. Obviously, we find ourselves in the midst of uncertain economic times, but we also find ourselves within the story of God's grace. There is at the very center of our faith a conviction that God's gracious gift to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ calls from us action as well as a response of both gratitude and generosity. How can we respond to God's gift in any other way than by giving generously and joyfully of our time, our talent, and our treasure? Consecration Sunday is November 9 - just one week away. Won't you prayerfully give generously and joyfully from your abundance to extend the healing ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ at First Presbyterian this year?

In Christ's Service,  
Holton

## Presbyterian Men News

Presbyterian Men will meet on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Bill Frank will be our speaker. Bill is a board member of Sutton Place Behavioral Health, a private, not-for-profit agency which is available to provide psychiatric treatment, mental health counseling and substance abuse services for residents of Nassau County, Florida. Sutton Place is dedicated to ensuring that individuals and families receive quality services that are well coordinated, individualized, and cost effective while overall, helping form a system of care that meets the total mental health needs of the community we serve. Please call in your reservation by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11th to help us plan for the meal 261-3837.

## FPC Library News

If you are a gardener, you know that occasionally you need to weed out to keep things in order and make way for new plants. It's apparent that the same thing is necessary for the Ann Thomas Resource Library!



Languishing on our shelves are books that have been there for over 10 years without ever having been checked out. The library committee decided at our last meeting that a weeding is long overdue. In that regard, all books that fit this criteria are now being removed from the shelves.

So, what do you do with these previously unread books? Our decision was to have a giant ongoing "fire sale". When the weeding process is complete, a table will be set up in Jim Thomas Hall with sale prices of \$.50 to \$1.00. Or, a shopping bag full for \$10.

All proceeds will go to buy new books for the library. Check it out!

## The Holiday Bazaar is Here

On Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. the Jim Thomas Hall will transform into a Winter Wonderland where we will be "Dreaming of a White Christmas". Lunch will be offered on Saturday and we hope you will join us!



If you have items to donate (crafts and Christmas past), please bring them to JTH the week of set up (27th - 30th). Items for the baked goods table can come on Thursday. Also, we need everyone available to help set up. Your time will be greatly appreciated. New crafts are available and some of the favorites make a return showing. Come start your Christmas shopping early!

## MOM, ME

Our Mom,me Playgroup continues to meet every Thursday morning 9:30-11 a.m. with new moms and babies/toddlers joining regularly!



Chrissy Sladek, a new member to our church, but a regular at Mom,me, has taken the lead as greeter and communicator with the other attendees. Mom,me is a wonderful outreach to the families of our church and community. Participation is open to all. Spread the word.



## MAC Updates

Join the MACs (Mature Adult Christians) for a delicious Italian Lunch and entertaining program by Sandra Gant, a world traveler, with many fun and interesting stories to share on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in Jim Thomas Hall. Our special mission project this month will be stocking the pantry at Barnabas with **Peanut Butter!** Bring lots!!! RSVP to the church office by November 13<sup>th</sup>-261-3837. The cost for lunch is \$12.00 per person.



Don't miss the delightful overnite trip to Colquitt, GA in March to see the folk production, Swamp Gravy. A \$100.00 deposit is due by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Make checks payable to Destinations Unlimited.

On Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, a reception was held in honor of Dr. Dwight Bailey to thank him for his faithful service to FPC.

*Dear First Church -*

*Just a note to express my appreciation for the gathering you had on Oct. 12 to honor me. First Church has been so generous with your expressions of appreciation for my ministry with you. It has been a wonderful experience for me and I'll feel your love for a long time to come.*

*Thanks again for honoring me with a book in the Ann Thomas Library. And thanks too for the M&Ms. Doris Davis is just too much when it comes to remembering my weaknesses! Thanks again for everything, including the tapestry made by Jane Turney. It hangs proudly on the wall in my new office.*

*Love from a grateful servant,  
Dwight*

## Changes in Children's Church

Our music director, Gabriella Stegman, has begun to nurture singing voices in our children during Children's Church each week. Parents could be of great assistance by asking your children to share some of the songs they are learning as you travel in your car or at the dinner table before meals. The Bible encourages us to make a joyful noise, praise the Lord, sing, dance and shout! Let the celebrating begin.



## Christian Education



Professor Wilma made a surprise appearance at 1<sup>st</sup> Café in October to sing Power Lab songs with the kids enjoying Power Lab after dinner every Wednesday night at First Presbyterian. It was wonderful to see her again and enjoy her stories, accent and broken English.

She has a special relationship with all the kids since her first appearance at VBS this past summer. Many thanks to Professor Wilma for visiting us again.



On another note, we'd like to thank **Andi Flynn** for adding music to the Power Lab experience each week.

# 1<sup>st</sup> CAFE

## Wednesday Night Dinner

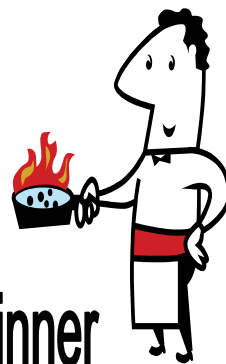
5:15 - 6:15p

Jim Thomas Hall

☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

6:15 - 7:00p

Nursery & Preschool  
POWER LAB for K-5th  
Youth Small Groups  
Pastoral Forum for Adults



Three cheers for the Member Care Committee team who have worked joyfully behind the scenes. Give them a big hug and a thank you for their servant hands and hearts. There are only three more dinners in our 1<sup>st</sup> Café Series in the month of November. Wednesday night activities will end with our November 19<sup>th</sup> meal. We will begin these wonderful family meals, fun and learning again in January. Enjoy all of your holidays as you gather round your own tables to count blessings and prepare for the Lord's birth.

**MEET & GREET**  
  
**Our NEW Members**



**Lou and James Johnson** moved to Fernandina Beach four years ago from Jacksonville. They have four children and

eight grandchildren. They have both been employed with Sysco Food Services; Lou has recently retired and James is looking forward to retiring in the near future. In their spare time they enjoy spending time with their family and friends and traveling.

**Wade Preston** relocated to Fernandina Beach just recently to accept FPC's call for a Director of Youth and Families. He hails from Alabama where he attended Auburn University. Wade was involved for several years with the Young Life program, beginning as a student and serving as Area Director of the Trussville area after graduating from college. Wade's interests include wrestling, outdoor sports such as snowboarding, and reading.



Wade was involved for several years with the Young Life program, beginning as a student and serving as Area Director of the Trussville area after graduating from college. Wade's interests include wrestling, outdoor sports such as snowboarding, and reading.

**Christmas Camp**



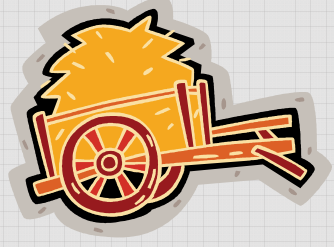
Coming in December we will again offer Christmas Camp on the first three Saturdays in December. This year we will also offer nursery and activities for toddlers, 3's and 4's! What a gift! Our hours for Christmas camp will be 9:30a.m. -1:30p.m. which will include a light lunch. Look for more details and registration to come.

*we're going on a hayride*

Sunday School Family Hayride  
 Saturday, November 22  
 3:00 p.m.

Children, Youth and their Families

Call the church office at 261-3837 by Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> to reserve a space on the wagon for your family. We'll be roasting marsh-



mallows, hotdogs and singing campfire songs besides riding on the wagon. Don't miss out on this special opportunity brought to you by the Christian Education Committee and Mike and Charlotte Bowling. Farmer Mike will be driving the tractor while Ms. Charlotte stokes the fire. We will meet at the church at 2:30 p.m. to travel to our destination.

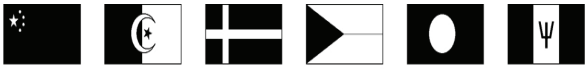
**NOVEMBER 30**



The First Sunday of Advent will be here before you can say Happy Thanksgiving! Before you have finished all the turkey and pumpkin pie, we will gather in Jim Thomas Hall for our traditional Family Christmas Night to decorate the tree in the hall, share a delicious chili supper, make advent wreaths and chrismons to adorn our homes and warm up our voices for Christmas caroling. Get ready! Make your plans! Save the date! Don't miss it! Let us begin our journey to Bethlehem together as the family of Christ.

## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for all those wonderful, caring gifts you included in brightly wrapped shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. They will make an important difference in the lives of hurting children around the world! Thank you for letting God work through you enabling our church to accomplish so much this year



# MISSION NEWS



God's Gift Shop will be open for your Christmas purchases on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and December 7<sup>th</sup>. Plan to shop for all of your dearest friends and family, or for those who are hard to shop for, buying them a very special, giving gift. Choose from building materials for one of the DeLille's homes in Brazil, school materials for Kim Brown who is rebuilding the boys school in Thailand, Gideons Bibles, or a very special CD of Christian music sung by Grace Kunzelmann, and whose proceeds return to the mission budget. Come shop, and let us help you solve your Christmas shopping needs.

Great news about the 2 Cents A Meal! Final tally of pennies, and other change, is \$1067.95! That means that 25% of the money, or \$266.98 will be available for groceries for the Interfaith Dinner Ministry. Because this has been such a successful ministry, we look forward to sharing the canisters with the congregation once again in the new year. Start saving your loose change for your family's canister!

Marlene Strobach is our Mission Trip Liaison for 2009. She is busy gathering ideas and information for next year's adult mission trip. Please share with her any good ideas that you have for our church's next mission trip.

## Ministry: What? Who?

In the scripture, the Lord gives us two commandments that are above all others: Love the Lord and have no other whom you worship and to love your neighbor as yourself. So what does this have to do with our own ministry?

I remember a story that I read about a man who was visiting a church far from home, and he asked the person in the pew next to him who the minister was. The reply went this way, "There is Mary, John, Scott, Louise, Amy, Joe." The visitor looked surprised and said, "are you naming the congregation?" "Yes," was the reply, "Our Shepherd and Pastor is the Reverend Ben Johnson."

How would you answer that at First Presbyterian? Your bulletin lists the congregation as the Ministers and then lists the Pastor. You see, being a member granted you a responsibility.

You are to be concerned and love your neighbor. We are fortunate to have a diverse congregation, an excellent Pastor, and wonderful officers, but they can't be effective without you. There are folks in the pews hurting, and we need all our ministers to help when they know of a need. Do what you can as members and ministers to show how deeply you care because God cares for you.

As you learn of those who have need of ministry and if you can't help them then inform the Pastoral Staff through the church office or contact us directly. Together the Ministers—that's you and the Pastoral Staff Which consists of the Pastor and Parish Associate—make a team. We need to work together in this church family.

As a new fellow on the Pastoral team, I'm here but I need all of you. I know my fellow ministers won't let me down.

Peace,  
Bert

## Join Softball Team

Do you like to have fun, fellowship with other Christians, be a team player, be competitive in a non-threatening environment, be supportive, exercise and stay active in the coolest part of the year? If so, then become a team member of First Presbyterians upcoming softball team. Be a part of an all church league that promotes Christian based fellowship and sportsmanship for all levels of softball experience. Opening day is planned for February, at Springhill Baptist Church's softball complex with possible live radio coverage from 88.1 The Promise. Come be a part of what promises to be a great opportunity to fellowship with members of our church as well as others from our community. For information and to sign up call Darren Smith at 491-4958.



## Relay For Life

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature fundraising event. After having a wonderful experience our first year out in 2007, First Presbyterian Church has decided to form a team for Relay For Life 2008! Our Team M\*A\*S\*H needs volunteer walkers to help make this year a success.



The Relay For Life is November 14<sup>th</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>; it begins at dusk and ends at the next day's morning. The light and darkness of the day and night parallel the physical effects, emotions, and mental state of a cancer patient while undergoing treatment. A member of our team needs to be on the track walking from the start of the relay until the end of the relay. This is difficult to do with a limited number of team members!

Mara Reaves is our Team Captain; you may contact Mara at 491-1322 or email [reavesl@bellsouth.net](mailto:reavesl@bellsouth.net) for more information. Team M\*A\*S\*H will also have a table between services beginning October 19<sup>th</sup>, please come by our Relay For Life table for more information concerning the Relay and for important cancer information.

## The Horizon of Life and Beyond

*For everything there is a season – a time to be born and a time to die.*  
*Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

At some point we have all experienced a death of a family member or loved one. Sometimes it is a total surprise and we are not prepared. There are steps you can take in advance (now) that will make things easier. TALK, talk to your loved ones, and put their and your wishes in writing. Wills are so important! Do you want to remember your church, your schools or special people in your will? Cremation or Burial? Columbarium or casket? What about Hospice? Are you and your loved ones prepared? God prepares us for life now and life Eternal.

Please come to Jim Thomas Hall on Thursdays, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> to get your questions answered by qualified professionals. In December there will be a table in Jim Thomas Hall to sign up and get details or you may call the church office to make a reservation.

## Out of the Saltshaker

The *Saltshaker* Adult Sunday school class is starting a new video series by RC Sproul, "God Alone-the Source of our Faith". In this series, we examine the biblical doctrine of redemption as summarized in the five solas of the Reformation, propositions that remind us God alone deserves the glory for our salvation. Please join us at 9:50 am in our JTH classroom.



## \$ Finance Facts \$

Did you know.....

You're invited!

To

CONSECRATION SUNDAY  
November 9<sup>th</sup>



We hope you'll be there!

Don't miss this special worship service and Celebration meal  
Consecration Sunday Chairpersons Buddy Drewry and Sewell Harlin

### Your Finance Committee

Emily Kunzelmann (Chair) 321-2169, Jack Dickison, Len Ermold 261-4718, John Grupe 277-9670, Jack Meeks (Treasurer), David Sapp, Ron Walker 261-4475

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2008	
SEPTEMBER ACTUAL GIVING: \$ 45,238	ACTUAL GIVING YTD: \$ 527,846
SEPTEMBER AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE: 322	ACTUAL GIVING YTD VS GIVING NEEDED TO BALANCE THE BUDGET: 94%
MONTHLY NEED FOR 2008: \$66,417	

### Featured Expense

Last month, \$2770 of your tithes and offerings were used to purchase equipment to prepare the Anchor to accommodate the new Contemporary Service.

## Flower Calendar

- November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Nancy and Ken Sturges; Mim and Ron Walker in honor of their 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary.
- November 9<sup>th</sup> - Ruth Reader in memory of her husband, Claude Reader.
- November 16<sup>th</sup> - DeAnn and Richard Johnson in honor of their 6<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.
- November 23<sup>rd</sup> - Charlotte and Roland Knight in honor of their children and grandchildren.
- November 30<sup>th</sup> - Barbara and Mac Noden in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



## PCUSA in the World

Since 1948, Presbyterian General Assemblies have been active in calling for a solution to the conflict in the Middle East that would "return to the principle of faithful devotion to the welfare, needs, and rights of both the Jewish and Arab peoples."

While affirming repeatedly Israel's right to exist within permanent, recognized and secure borders, General Assemblies have also recognized Palestinian rights to self-determination, calling for a negotiated settlement of differences by the parties themselves where issues and their resolution can be mutually defined and accepted.

## ***Relying on Jesus Christ***

The Bible says "A woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. "Who touched me? Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, I know that power has gone out from me." then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and ...told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you, go in peace." (Luke 8:43-48)

Notice three important things in this story:

- 1) She did something she had never done before. She decided to try Jesus. That was a wise move. Accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior and telling other people about Jesus is a wise move and is something that many people in the world today have never done.
- 2) She recognized her moment, and she took advantage of the opportunity. Sometimes when we meet a person, an opening in the conversation occurs in which we can mention Jesus and what he has done for you, and we need to take advantage of that opportunity. "Do you know Jesus personally?" "Have you accepted His gift of eternal life?" Tell them about Jesus because if you don't, the cost to them is too great. You may be the only Bible some people ever read.
- 3) She opened the door for others. Her act of faith showed the power of Jesus to others and because of her, people brought their sick loved ones to Jesus and begged Him to let their sick just touch the edge of His robe (Mt 14:35,36). Our lives should reflect this same faith, particularly during hard times. People are watching us to see how we handle the crises, the tragedies, and the difficult times. They want to see what we are relying on. What are you relying on? Are you living so that others will want the strength and joy you have? The Evangelism Committee prays that others see Jesus in each of us. May they see that in tough times and in good times, we are relying on the saving grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

From your Evangelism Committee

### **Interfaith Dinner Network**

*"For I was Hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."*

*Matt 25:35*

By the time this newsletter is received, First Presbyterian will have served over 100 homeless or needy people at the Interfaith Dinner Network and 32 volunteers will have participated from our church. This community ministry has been very successful in the short time that it has been in existence and has served close to 500 dinners. The ministry is continually adding churches, and presently there are eight committed churches, and three that are pending.

We continue to ask for volunteers to help with the dinners as this is an ongoing ministry and our church has committed to the whole year. We thank all of you who have already signed up and we look forward to calling on you for help. If you cannot physically help but would like to make a monetary donation that would also be helpful. The Presbyterian Women have committed cookbook funds to the IDN and as stated last month 25% of Two Cents A Meal was donated.

If you feel that you can help out please contact Bill Erickson, Gail Niedernhofer, Eunice Kurtz or Marilyn Showalter.





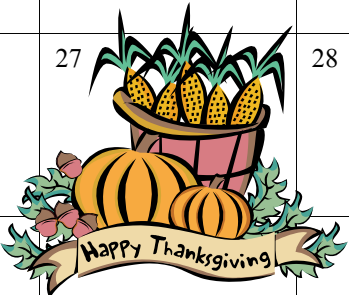


# November 2008

Phone: 904 261-3837  
 Fax: 904 261-0056  
 Email: churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com  
 Web: www.1stpres-fb.com

1858

First Presbyterian Church — 150 years in the heart of Fernandina

2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <b>BAZAAR</b>
2 3:30p Officer Training 6p Youth Sunday Practice 6:30p Elder/Deacon Stewardship Dinner	3  5p Teen CBS 6:15p Comm. Mtg.	4 <b>VOTE</b> 9:30a Staff Mtg. 6:45p Mission Comm.	5 <b>1st CAFÉ</b> 5:15p Pasta w/ meatballs 6:15p Power Lab, Youth & Adult Study 6:30p Choir	6 8a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 2:30p PW Comm 4p C E Comm 5:30p APNC 7p Praise Band	7  Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p	8 
	<b>YOUTH FALL RETREAT</b>					
9 <b>CONSECRATION CELEBRATION</b> 9:30a Brunch 12p Lunch 3:30p Officer Training	10  5p Teen CBS	11 9:30a Staff Mtg. 10a Member Care  5p Worship Comm 6p Property	12 <b>1st CAFÉ</b> 5:15p Roasted Turkey 6:15p Power Lab, Youth & Adult Study 6:30p Choir	13 8a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 5:30p APNC 6:30p Presb. Men 7p Praise Band	14  Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p	15 8:30a Youth Sunday Practice 9a Finance Comm. Relay For Life
16 <b>COMMUNION Youth Sunday</b> 9:30a Welcome Youth Director Wade Preston 3:30p Officer Training	17  5p Teen CBS	18  5:45p Deacons 7p Session	19 <b>1st CAFÉ</b> 4:30p Staff Mtg. 5:15p Jambalaya 6:15p Power Lab, Youth & Adult Study 6:30p Choir	20 8a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 11:30a <b>NACS</b> 5:30p APNC 7p Praise Band	21  Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p	22 9a Officer Retreat 3p <b>Sunday School FAMILY HAYRIDE</b> 
23 3:30p Officer Training Youth Bonfire @ Peter's Point 6p Halfway House	24  5p Teen CBS	25 9:30a Staff Mtg. 7p Community Thanksgiving Ser.	26  6:30p Choir	27 	28  Church Office closed	29  
30 1st Sunday in Advent  4:30p <b>Family Christmas Night</b> 						December 6 <b>Christmas Camp</b> 9:30a-1:30p

## Presbyterian Women News

We have good news from our Kick Off Luncheon that was held in September. Our Thank Offering that was dedicated on that day amounted to \$728. Sandi Neal gave the introduction to our "Jubilee" Bible Study and as part of her presentation she made a beautiful banner that can be viewed above the fireplace in Jim Thomas Hall. Thank you to Sandi for the beautiful workmanship.



The Coordinating Team agreed to give proceeds from the cookbooks to First Presbyterian's Interfaith Dinner Network Team. The CT also voted to give Bazaar Funds to the following missions: New Choir Robes, The Women's Prison Ministry, Camp Montgomery, Hope House and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness, Nassau County). We are also considering an international mission to be decided on at a later date.

Cookbooks, ornaments, and note cards will be sold between services in Jim Thomas Hall until Christmas. These make great Christmas gifts.

The Circle Mission project for November is Christmas Gifts for the Thornwell Child. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of the Presbyterian Women will be January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 at Riverside Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville. If you would be interested in attending please call Marilyn Showalter for details.

### Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for November

- ★ Elizabeth Circle - November 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., Jim Thomas Hall
- ★ Esther Circle - November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m., Charlotte Knight's home
- ★ Lydia Circle - November 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., Joy Drewry's home
- ★ Martha Circle - November 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m., Courtney Fassbender's home
- ★ Ruth Circle - November 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m., Caroline Tunkel's home

## 2008 Fall Youth Retreat Camp Montgomery, November 7 - 9

All middle school and senior high youth are invited to attend a weekend retreat to spend time strengthening your relationships with other FPC youth, your youth leaders, and with Christ. Friends are also welcome. Highlights of the weekend include:



- Campfire and s'mores
- Challenge yourself at the ropes course where you'll push your limits on 16 elements.
- Group Bible study and devotions
- Free time to take advantage of the recreation available at Camp Montgomery.
- A Sunday worship service led by the youth.

The cost of the weekend is \$55 which includes two-nights lodging, four meals, and the ropes course. For families with more than two youth attending, the cost is \$35 for the second youth. The cost for adult chaperones is \$25.

### Coffee Service

- November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Youth Committee
- November 9<sup>th</sup> - Consecration Sunday
- November 16<sup>th</sup> - Reception for Wade Preston
- November 23<sup>rd</sup> - Ruth Circle
- November 30<sup>th</sup> - Elizabeth Circle



### Author in Our Midst

Did you know that Becky Duke has written a book entitled Celebrating Marriage? Many of the encouraging stories contained therein were written by people you know.

If the local bookstore does not have an extra copy you may order one through [encouragingwordpress.com](http://encouragingwordpress.com).

## Class of 2011

At a Congregational meeting on Sunday, October 19th, the newest class of Deacons and Elders were elected as well as the four at-large members of the 2009 Nominating Committee. The new Deacons and Elders will assume their responsibilities following their ordination in January. Officer training will take place the first four Sundays in November, and the Session will examine these new officers in December.

Sincere appreciation is extended to this year's Nominating Committee for their prayerful discernment in nominating the class of 2011: Doc Burgess (Chairman), John Drew, Polly Hord, Charlotte Knight, Sandi Neal, Alice Payne and Susan Steger.

### Deacons

- **Charlotte Bowling**, has been a member of FPC over 15 years. She has one adult son, Ray Odom, and is celebrating 10 years of marriage to Mike. Charlotte currently serves on the Endowment Trust Fund Board and previously worked on Stewardship, Logos, and VBS.
- **Charlotte Collins** moved to Fernandina with her husband, George, in 1998 and joined FPC in 1999. Charlotte sings in the choir, is a member of the Worship Committee, the Esther Circle, and the Church Quilters. She has also worked in VBS for several years.
- **Linda Johns** is an ordained Elder, certified lay pastor, and has been a member of the Presbyterian Church USA for 21 years. She is a Chaplain at Mayo Hospital in Jacksonville and a Chaplain Assistant at Baptist Nassau. Linda is a member of the Elizabeth Circle.
- **Ann Mayne** has been a member of FPC since 1998. She was ordained a Deacon in 2002 and served as Secretary and then Moderator. Other church activities include Bereavement, Ruth Circle, Nominating Committee, VBS and Logos.
- **Randy Prevatt** and his wife, Jennifer, moved to Amelia Island following his retirement nine years ago. Randy works part time at the Plantation Golf Course to fund his full time golf habit. They attend worship at the 11 a.m. service and participate in Groups of Eight dinners. Randy has been involved with Meals on Wheels for some time. They have three children and five grandchildren.
- **Mack Sisson** and his wife Janet joined FPC in 2006 and the choir on the same day. Before joining FPC, he was actively involved with sports and youth ministries as well as being an ordained deacon. Mack looks forward to many years of service to our Lord. Their son and daughter are both married and live in Northern Virginia.

### Elders

- **Trish Booten** and her husband, Paul, moved to Fernandina in 2004. They have two daughters and eight grandchildren. Trish serves as the Vice-Moderator for Presbyterian Women and is the Ruth Circle Bible Study leader. She helped re-establish our church's Relay for Life Team and is on the board of Joy to the Children.
- **Todd Davis**, a previously ordained Elder, has served on the Personnel Committee, sings in the Choir, and participates in the Men's Community Bible Study program. He and his wife, Lynn, have two daughters.
- **Dean Dobbins** has served on numerous committees and in leadership positions at other churches prior to moving to Fernandina. Since joining First Presbyterian in 2000. Dean has trained as a Stephen Minister and served as an usher. Dean and Christine are regular worshippers at the 8:30 service.
- **Carolyn Guerrin**, originally from Springfield, Mass., joined FPC in 1984 and has served two terms as Deacon, been a circle leader, coordinated the Advent Devotional, and has worked on many committees of the church. She and Bill have one son, Jay, and three grandchildren in the area.

- **Jack Meeks** is an ordained elder, who has served as chairman of finance and is currently the Church Treasurer. He was instrumental in helping to establish the Ann Thomas Resource Library and is a member of the Original Adults Sunday school class.
- **Nelson Showalter** is a retired airline pilot, married to Marilyn for 41 years. The Showalters joined First Pres in 1989. Nelson has previously served as an Elder and Deacon working on Property, Finance, Communications, and on an Assoc. Pastor Nominating Committee as Co-Chairman.

### Nominating Committee

- **Mary Tom Drew** is a member of the Original Adult Sunday school class, the Ruth Circle, Worship committee, and the Assoc. Pastor Nominating Committee. She serves as the church's wedding and flower coordinator and weekly as an office volunteer. She and Joe were married in FPC and have a son, John, a daughter Julie, and two grandchildren.
- **Ed Matthews**, an ordained Elder, has been a member of FPC, along with his wife Joyce, for the past 18 years. He has served on Membership Care, Pastor Nominating Committee, and as Chairman of the Youth Committee. Ed has been a Stephen Ministry leader, Sunday School teach, VBS volunteer, and worked with youth in Teen CBS.
- **Shirley Owens** has been a member of FPC for 30 years and has served as an elder for several terms. She has been active in many aspects of our Christian Education program, the Esther Circle, and has served on Personnel, Long Range Planning, Facility Usage, and Search Committees. Shirley is married to Dr. Ken Owens.
- **Ted Selby** and his wife, Bunny, joined FPC in 1987. Ted has served four terms as Elder, Chairman of Finance, Church Treasurer, and Chairman of Property where he was actively involved in building JTH.



### Small Groups for Youth

Middle school and senior high youth are you looking for a safe and nurturing place to build friendships, share experiences, and enjoy fellowship? Join one of our small groups which meets on Wednesday evenings after the family supper from 6:15 to 7 p.m.

- Middle school girls, led by DeAnn Johnson and Dina Martin, meet in the parlor in JTH.
- Middle school boys, led by Dick Kenner and Nick Clark, meet in the Anchor.
- Senior high young women, led by Moira Sager, meet in Kafe KAOSS.

### What is PresbyTel?

PresbyTel is a useful resource for congregations, presbyteries, synods and those curious about Presbyterian faith and history. It is the general information service of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a storehouse of knowledge that can be accessed by church members, pastors, presbyteries, synods and all others who need answers or are merely curious. Some may call us the "Help Center" or "Reference Desk" with a personal touch. Call us at (800) 872-3283, or [ask a question online](#). PresbyTel consultants are available between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

The mission of PresbyTel is to welcome inquiries and provide reliable information that fosters relationship between members and other individuals and the General Assembly staff and programs through telephone, email, and personal contact.

## ***First Presbyterian Hosts Presbytery***

Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, started early (in fact many days of prior effort was required) for our congregation as we hosted the Fall stated meeting of the St Augustine Presbytery. Greater than 150 representatives from Northeast Florida came to Fernandina to conduct business, worship, share a meal and help celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Robin and Dan Marley, Nelson Showalter, Gene Sovereign and James Loper (Police Auxiliary member recruited by Don McFadyen) assisted our guests' parking and directed them to registration in an Anchor classroom. Gail Niedernhofer, Emily Kunzelmann, Charlotte Knight, Mary Jo Griffin, Pat Ermold, Del Dunman, Jane Dickison, and Peggy Day greeted the presbyters/visitors, sold lunch tickets and directed them to the large assembly room in the Anchor.



A fantastic hospitality layout of coffee, juice, fruit, muffins and cinnamon rolls (made by Sandy Anderson) and the smiling faces of Bunny Selby, Trish Booton, Marsha Daniel, Christine Dobbins, Sally Ericksen, Carolyn Guerrin, DeAnn Johnson, Trisha Kenner, Beverly Monahan, Karen Murry, Alice Payne, Linda Proctor and Mim Walker were provided.

The meeting started at 9 a.m. Our Pastor, Holton Siegling, welcomed the assembled presbytery and introduced the Yulee Players (Bonnie Sovereign and Jack Dickison) whose reenactment received warm reviews and gave insight into our history. Holton was pressed into service throughout the day giving the grace before lunch, presiding at communion and giving the benediction. Bill Wade, John Grupe, Carolyn Guerrin, Jack Dickison, Terri Cunningham and Charlotte Knight collected the offering, which will be sent to Health Ministries in the Christian Church of North India. Membership Care hosted the morning break. The Eucharist was prepared by David Turney and distributed by David, Bill Wade, Charlotte Knight, Gail Niedernhofer, Mim Walker, Roger Martin and John Grupe.

Immediately following the blessing, the doors to Jim Thomas Hall were opened to a fantastic Low Country boil. The tables for 180 diners were decorated in a nautical theme by Trisha Kenner that gave real meaning to having lunch in Fernandina. David Hardee assisted by Chip Townsend, Gary Wickless, Bill Ericksen and Ted Selby placed First Fernandina on the Presbytery map as the absolute best lunch ever – at least since David performed a similar feat at the last Presbytery meeting in Fernandina in October 1997. The Membership Care ladies continued their meticulous efforts to keep the food replenished, drinks available and all the while smiling! One could almost hear a pin drop as our guests got down to some serious eating.

The audiovisuals worked! Thanks to Joel Payne for baby-sitting the system all day. Tony Brewer's efforts setting up, taking down, cleaning and being there when emergencies arose such as bathrooms not working correctly, was key to this major undertaking. Tony not only made it happen but he also gave the impression he was enjoying the event. So many others had a hand in bringing this event to a level that should make us all proud. Mac Noden lined up the microphones, Barbara Noden planned the Yulee skit, Ed Mathews adapted our property layout map for a handout to visitors, Charlie Monroe helped with the audiovisual effort, and Bill Ericksen made sure the money got to the bank. Our office volunteers handled inquiries and thankfully were not needed to call emergency services. It was also beneficial that contact with the local authorities prevented everyone getting a parking ticket for exceeding the three-hour parking limit. We would be remiss if we did not offer a special "thank you" to Rich Lang who helped to organize it all.

Thanks be to the Lord!

## Youth Sunday

Each year the youth of the church plan and lead the worship service. This year, Youth Sunday will be on Sunday, November 16th. In preparation for this service, youth will have two practices:

- Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6p to 7:30p
- Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30a to noon.

## Prayer Group

There will be no Prayer Group Thursday morning, November 27th due to Thanksgiving. We hope you'll have a wonderful holiday - and don't forget to count all your many blessings!



**THANKSGIVING**